Pollination of *Jansonia formosa* Kipp. ex Lindl. (Papillonaceae) — *Jansonia* Kipp. is a monotypic genus closely related to *Brachysema* and confined to riverine or moist soils in the Margaret River to Walpole region of southern Western Australia. The sole species generally occurs in dense populations of 60-100 plants each of which may reach 3 metres tall x 2 metres wide in sheltered positions. Flowering occurs between October and December. Each shrub may bear several hundred inflorescences, each composed of four red flowers. The flowers are protogynous.

As no previous studies of the pollination biology of this species have been recorded, observations were made in a dense stand located on the Scott River. Plants in this area were being visited by a large (13-17 birds) group of yellow-winged Honeyeaters (*Phylidonyris novaehollandiae*). The birds fed on an average of 9 blooms per bush (range 1-23) before moving to adjacent bushes. They were also extremely aggressive towards the odd Singing Honeyeater. (*Meliphaga virescens*) which attempted to feed on nectar from this population. Pollen adhered to the base of the bill and stigmas examined from a range of visited flowers showed ample pollen placement.

— GREG KEIGHERY, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, West Perth, 6005 Western Australia.

Nesting and Observations of the Striated Grasswren at Wittenoom — During September 1982 a search was made in the Hamersley Range south of the Wittenoom townsite to locate nests of the Striated Grasswren (*Amytornis striatus*) for the purposes of photography.

On 3 September 1982 (an overcast day) six birds were heard calling in breakaway country near Bee Gorge. The following day two birds were sighted carrying insects, their behaviour indicating the possibility of a nearby nest. A search for the nest was conducted unsuccessfully. The birds were kept under observation through binoculars whilst they foraged for food. One bird was observed to jump onto some leaf litter and then stand back and watch as if to see what insects it had disturbed.

On 5 September 1982 further searching in the same area revealed a nest containing two young about a week old. The nest was built on top of a *Triodia* clump, in breakaway country on the western side of a gravel outcrop about a metre down from the top of a ridge. Its opening was facing east, as mentioned by Le Souef in his book "The Birds of Australia", 1911, page 332. It looked very similar to the nest of the Painted Firetail (*Emblema picta*) in that it was made with dead pieces of *Triodia* and bark.

Our observations revealed that the birds appeared to be more vocal on overcast days than on fine sunny days.

On 8 September 1982, a day which was fine and sunny, we decided to photograph the birds at the nest. We arrived at 0735 hours and departed at 1745 hours. During that time the adults fed the young on white moths and other insects every 15-20 minutes, although during the period 1300-1430 hours no feeding took place. At 1600 hours one adult bird called from a nearby slope for a few minutes.

A close examination of the nest, after the young departed revealed that it was lined with pieces of *Triodia* and was domed or ovoid with a large opening near the top. Measurements were as follows: 160 mm high, 140 mm wide, inside cup 60 mm wide, 35 mm deep, opening 50 mm, and was built about 20 cm from the ground. It was forwarded to the Western Australian Museum where it was registered as number A17582. The nest opening was in full sunlight until about 1300 hours each day.

An interesting defence mechanism of the Grasswren is its ability to 'freeze' and subsequently 'melt' into its surroundings. We observed this behaviour whilst following a bird. It suddenly dived under a clump of *Triodia*, and by extending and flattening its head and tail tight to the ground causing its body to hump, it suddenly became a lump of gravelly scree. Had we not kept a close watch on it we would have very easily walked past without realising it was there.

Although the Striated Grasswren is a very shy and secretive bird, patience and persistence will reward the observer. Invariably we have found this bird in *Triodia* growing around breakaway country.

— ELAINE and MAX HOWARD, P.O. Box 12, Wittenoom, 6752.